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COVID count increases as acts of good inspire

By Dalton Zbierski Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY - Despite the town's best efforts, South Hadley's COVID-19 count continues to soar. Mike Sullivan, Town Administrator, presented a string of concerning statistics to the Selectboard on Dec. 15.

"The numbers between last week and this week; we had 47 new confirmed cases and 19 additional contact cases so that's 66 new cases in a one-week period of time," said Sullivan. "We did get an update directly from the Clerk's Office on death certificates, and since March 1, we've had 39 deaths [from COVID-19]."

On Dec. 8, the town had reported only 28 deaths. The double-digit increase is highly representative of the virus' growing

Please see **COVID**, page 3



South Hadley Food Service Director Matt Hoagland was hard at work inside the high school cafeteria on Wednesday morning.

FREE December 18, 2020

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Belchertown man among five arrested in drug bust



SOUTH HADLEY, 9

Seniors receive early Christmas present



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DESE Commissioner faces major scrutiny

By Dalton Zbierski Staff Writer

BOSTON - Thousands of Massachusetts educators are calling for the resignation of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley. More than 100 unions representing educators in the commonwealth favored a vote of no confidence against Riley for his alleged lack of leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

What began last month as a grassroots movement quickly spread to dozens of districts across the state, eventually earning the support of the Massachusetts Teachers Association.

The MTA cites the majority of staff surveyed in Massachusetts schools believe Riley, "Lacks the necessary managerial and leadership skills to manage safely and effectively DESE during the COVID crisis."

Approximately 20 unions affiliated with the Western Mass Educator Action Network have joined the campaign to remove Rilev from office. As DESE's direction has constantly changed, educators and students have been left to pick up the pieces.

"The kids are getting hurt," said Laura Demakis, president of the Chicopee Educators Association. "In a time of an incredibly different way of learning, everyone is craving for guidance and leadership and some sort of regularity and process. We have not gotten that from DESE. It's caused confusion, anxiety and stress for the families."



A group of educators and supporters, including Chicopee Education Association President Laura Demakis (second to right), South Hadley Education Association President Scott Beaulieau (second to left) and Massachusetts Teachers Association Vice President Max Page (far right) rally outside of Chicopee High School in June of 2020.

The MTA stated earlier this week DESE has fostered unsafe working conditions by failing to listen to health experts and educators across the state.

The MTA statement reads, "Commissioner Riley and DESE continue to ignore the ever-growing body of scientific evidence showing the direct correlation between in-person learning and increased transmission rates of COVID-19.

The South Hadley Education Association is another local union that is critical of Riley. DESE's perceived lack of guidance has left SHEA President Scott Beaulieau extremely disheartened.

"It's maddening that we have people in high towers who don't know what's going on in the trenches. The lack of leadership hurts the education process," said Beaulieau. "It's mindboggling that DESE isn't taking responsibility for not giving support or guidance or giving it too late."

From changing metrics to an absence of communication, Massachusetts educators have grown tired of the state's unpredictable behavior. Demakis feels strongly that much of the blame falls on the shoulders of Riley.

"It's been one thing after another that's shown, quite frankly, that he's out of touch with the reality of all of his school districts," she said. "We don't think Riley has taken into account the different and very real affects that the pandemic has had on districts of poverty and families of color. Is that systemic racism or

racial injustice? I would say so."

Countless Massachusetts educators have lost faith in DESE after it failed to implement surveillance COVID-19 testing in every school and chose not to cancel MCAS testing next

DESE has seemingly overlooked the lack of adequate ventilation that exists in many dated Massachusetts schools. Demakis believes that the state has cast a negative light on educators who have advocated for remote learn-

"To be very clear, we want the kids in the classroom. Educators want to be in the classroom. This isn't easy or fun for anybody, but it has to be safe," said Demakis. "DESE has not given an inch. It's almost like they expect everything to be the same instead of understanding that the direction has to change a little bit.'

Regardless of whether or not Riley keeps his job, major changes must be made moving forward. Either way, educators in all corners of the commonwealth will continue to perform admira-

"We have incredible teachers across the state who do this because we love teaching and care about our students and our communities," said Beaulieau. "It's incredibly fulfilling when you see students succeeding, and this situation hasn't hurt the commitment that teachers put in every day."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

COVID from page 1

As of Tuesday, South Hadley has reported 415 confirmed, 376 contact, 21 probable and 17 suspected cases of COVID-19 since March 1. Sullivan noted that the town is hard at work, attempting to increase awareness in any way that it

"It is a very difficult time. Of the 65 signs that we've had printed up, I have about 40 of those up throughout the town. Thank you Selectboard members for the ones that you've helped with," said Sul-

Residents who are interested in displaying a sign on their property are encouraged to email Sullivan at msullivan@ southhadleyma.gov. Sullivan did acknowledge that the town could be forced to stall the process of implementing signs for several days following Winter Storm Bailey.

In a successful attempt to liven the spirits of the board, Sullivan shared two inspiring gestures that recently occurred in South Hadley.

"Here's a nice holiday story," said Sullivan. "A business in town was having an exceptional year, and they made an anonymous donation to the Lions' Club of \$1,000 and anonymous donation to the South Hadley Police Patrolmen's Associ-

Have

Something

ation of \$1,000, earmarked to help families that they come across during the holiday season, who are having difficulties."

Sullivan continued on to share details of another act of kindness. By the time he concluded speaking, Sullivan and several other Selectmen were choked up.

"Health Director [Sharon] Hart came across that the family was suffering some hardships," said Sullivan. "The entire family was ill, and some of them were children, but they were unable to go get tested because they couldn't afford the gas to wait in line. A donation was made, they got gas and they went and got test-

The donation proved to be timely. As Sullivan revealed, the family was in dire

"Four members of the five-member family have COVID. It's one of those things; we just pray that we're not in the same situation. It's a difficult time, but every once and a while you hear a story that warms your heart. That one certainly did," said Sullivan.

More information pertaining to COVID-19 cases in South Hadley can be located at https://southhadley.org/1026/ COVID-19-RESPONSE.

Dalton Zbierski is a staff writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular pickup truck
- 4. Profoundly wise men Camera company
- 14. Folk singer DiFranco
- 15. Passerine birds
- 16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- 17. Popular kids channel
- 18. Dodgers' skipper
- 20. Removes 22. The Atlantic is one
- 23. Badgerlike mammal Foulness
- 28. Luke's mentor
- -Wan 29. Commercial
- 30. A type of gin
- 31. Temptress 33. Shuts in an enclosed
- space 37. Milligram
- 38. Actress Adams
- 39. Strive to equal or

- 4 I. Health Insurance
- 42. A detective's source 43. Small American rails
- 44. Alfred ___, Brit. poet 46. Crest of a hill 49. Atomic #52
- 50. Caesar, comedian 7. Midway between
- 51. Breaks apart 55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- 58. Worker
- 59. Chemical compound 60. Disgraced newsman
- 64. Born of 65. Chemical substance
 - 66. Supernatural powers 11. Eurasian ryegrass
 - 67. Clothes
 - 68. Indy footballers
 - 69. Moves forward 70. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Driver
- 2. Bone cavities
- 21. One point east of southeast 24. Belgian city

26. River in France

3. Menacina

figure

game

4. Where coaches patrol

northeast and east

5. Greek mythological

6. War-based board

8. 18-year period in

9. Mid-century term

10. Large bodies of

12. Perform on stage

19. 10th month of the

year (abbr.)

13. Greek island

used to describe

Japanese-Americans 48. Imitator

astronomy

- 25. Praise excessively
- 54. Swarms with 56. Margarines 57. Feudal superior 59. As fast as can be

27. Eaible IIIV buids

them

alien

40. Missouri

45. Pig noise 47. Greatly dismay

over 53. Boxing's GOAT

36. Unconscious

Quarterbacks take

32. Organic compound

35. Beloved Hollywood

41. Firemen use them

52. Moves by turning

34. Tears down (Brit.)

- done 60. Reciprocal of a sine
- 61. Chinese city
- 62. Tell on
- 63. United

- Badri Z. Debian D.M.D.
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Opinion

GUEST COLUMN

Poinsettias grateful for extra TLC

every Christmas the poinsettia takes the stage, front and center, in grocery and box store displays. The deep red bracts lure

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

part of their holiday decorating. Pretty? For sure, but without proper care, the plant won't have a chance past New Year's Day. Let's learn what we can do to keep this favorite looking its best throughout the holiday season and then some.

It's important that

buyers to make them

It's important that you start off with a healthy plant. Choose a poinsettia with dark green foliage all the way to the soil line. Color should complete-

ly cover the bracts on the upper portion of the plant. Avoid plants whose flowers (located in the center of the bracts) show pollen. If pollen is evident, the plant is old. Be wary of those that are displayed in plastic or paper sleeves or even those that are elbow to elbow. Poinsettias need room to spread out, and the longer they are cramped, the more likely it is that their quality will be impacted. Wilted plants are also best avoided, as this may indicate more than dry soil alone.

Poinsettias are cold sensitive. Temperatures under 50 degrees for even a few minutes can damage the plant. Therefore, insert into a bag or protective sleeve for the ride home from the store and do not leave in an unheated car while you run other errands! Once home, position the poinsettia in a location where it will receive indirect light for at least six hours a day. Avoid drafts, warm or cold, and place far enough away from windows to prevent the foliage from touching cold glass. Chances are if you are comfortable inside, your poinsettia will be as well. Temperatures from 65 to 70 degrees during the day to around 55 at night will extend its life.

Check the plant often to see if it needs water. If the soil is dry, water until droplets leak through the drainage holes in the pot. Saucers shouldn't accumulate water. Dump the excess out after each watering so the plant won't reabsorb it and become waterlogged. Soil that remains soaking wet is likely to cause root rot. A visual indication of this irreversible disease is curled, wilting foliage and bracts. Hold off on fertilizing the plant while it is in bloom.

It's unfortunate that few people keep their poinsettias past the holiday season. When I was a kid my Mom succeeded at getting hers to bloom again the following Christmas. Here's what to do if you'd like to try it: In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May. After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks. Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to repot the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil. Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud. At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your best bet. Most people get on a 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1, and continue it for eight to 10 weeks until color shows on the bracts. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

While my Mom achieved colorful bracts, the plant itself was a bit leggy and the foliage not so green. Perhaps more fertilizer and a harder pinch would have made our experiment more successful. Give it a try yourself and maybe you will have even better results!



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On 2020 one for the record books

Dear editor,

What a year for the record books, from the start of 2020 to the final month.

We have seen political turmoil, the pandemic of the century, an election that was filled with so much truth and unjustifiable lies to an ending of hope in our future.

We saw heroes in every sector of our health care organizations. We had heroes in every sector of our society helping fellow Americans in need.

We saw the essential employees going into work each day, keeping the grocery stores running to maintain the food supply to their communities throughout the state.

We heard story after story of the kind deeds that families were doing to help their neighbors in need.

We learned to all use Zoom in just about every home in America. We saw how our

teachers and students adapted to a new online learning environment.

We saw our homes turned into our new offices, new classrooms and telehealth communication hubs.

But, through it all, we have learned, adjusted and remained hopeful.

By continuing COVID safety practices throughout the winter months we will help avoid the spread of the COVID virus to others.

Knowing the vaccines are being distributed throughout the country, and with timelines for distribution for all sectors of the general population.

It looks like 2021 is looking to start a lot better than in 2020, which is truly good news for us all.

Sincerely,

Dennis Golas

Construction soils, landfills...and cockroaches?!

Dear editor.

As a South Hadley resident, I am concerned about a proposal to the Selectboard to reopen the town landfill to become a depository for construction soils. Town residents have spoken about the risks of bringing contaminated construction soils (aka "COMM-97 soils") into our aging, partially unlined landfill.

Concerns include: contamination of air, water and soil; negative impact on real estate values and burden of long-term management. Most regional landfills have stopped accepting construction soils.

Massachusetts regulations regarding COMM-97 soils are imperfectly complex; accuracy and completeness of contamination data are apparently not field-verified by MassDEP. Thus, it is surprising that a Select-board would consider a proposal that could harm the health and safety of town residents.

There is another risk of which most people and MassDEP may be unaware. Years ago (as director, vector biology and comprehensive management program, laboratory of zoonotic disease and epidemiology at the Wadsworth Center, NY State Department of Health), I investigated an outbreak of American cockroaches (Periplaneta americana) in a rural town in upstate New York. P. americana are large, reddish brown roaches that typically are urban in the Northeast. The community, similar to South Hadley, had become plagued with these large roaches

after nearby landfill dumping of urban construction soils and wastes; roaches were inside homes, hundreds were on house foundations, lawns, nearby roads and in forests in conditions below 50°F. Note, this species prefers 80°F; they are common in Los Angeles sewers and outdoors in Miami, but to find hundreds outdoors in the rural Northeast at low ambient temperatures was unknown. The community (previously without a cockroach problem) had become overrun with American cockroaches and was adjacent to one of the landfill areas, the source of the widespread infestation. These cockroaches had successfully adapted to a new rural, colder habitat with alternative food sources (e.g., tree sap).

The proposal before the South Hadley Selectboard mentions only "construction soil" from undesignated locations. Such materials can include cockroaches that bring: disease risks; allergens; psychological stress; and real property devaluation.

Understandably, town officials are under financial pressure at this time; however, enabling a potential cockroach infestation and/or any of the aforementioned risks related to COMM-97 soils would likely be found unconscionable by most residents.

Dr. Stephen C. Frantz Research Pathobiologist Global Environmental Options, South Hadley

A QUOTE

of **NOTE**

We don't know the situations that everybody's in.
Everybody is different, and if the food helps out and can take a little bit of pressure off, it's helpful and worthwhile.

South Hadley High School Kitchen Manager Kathy Gauthier

in the story "Meals and Cheer offered at school"

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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South Hadley



Town continues inclusiveness training

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – On the evening of Dec. 8, the town of South Hadley hosted a "Symposium of Understanding," a webinar that endeavored to strengthen the public's understanding of their own biases.

The hour-long exercise educated residents on the importance of acceptance and the direct correlation that inclusiveness has to a community's success.

Dr. Lauren Appio, of Appio Psychology Consulting PLLC, presented on cultural competence and professional development.

"If you've ever had to make a change in your life before, exercising more or scrolling through your phone less perhaps, you know it's not as easy to do as just say, 'I'm going to do this.' We end up having mixed feelings about making changes, and there are all these obstacles," said Appio, who joined the conversation virtually from her New York City practice.

Appio, a licensed psychologist, earned her Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Columbia University. In addition to treating patients, Appio provides diversity and inclusion training for nonprofits, schools, businesses and municipalities.

"My approach to this kind of work is it has to be collaborative," said Appio. "Bringing someone in from the outside helps so that everyone can be a participant, including people who are in senior roles and people who have a lot of decision-making power. It helps to relieve them of that kind of role and be able to participate like everybody else in these conversations."

A panel consisting of Selectboard Vice Chair Sarah Etelman, Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen, Deputy Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz and Town Administer Mike Sullivan participated in the activity alongside Appio.

"We want to provide a workplace where people feel safe both culturally and intellectually," said Sullivan. "We want to relay to the public some of the exercises and planning and different innovative approaches we're having to try to have our staff understand diversity and inclusion, recognize their biases and how we can deal with them and go forward."

Appio accentuated the significance of opening a dialogue and creating a process for town employees and community members to engage in.

She said diversity includes race, age, gender, sexual orientation and religion, all of which contribute to each individual's world views.

"Diversity is about all of the unique qualities and characteristics that we bring into different spaces with an emphasis on looking at some of the ways that people get treated differently based on some of the characteristics that they hold," said Appio

Wolowicz said the town has held similar symposiums in each of the past six years in an effort to foster an environment of acceptance in Town Hall. While the annual workshops have varied, they all have prioritized a spirit of inclusion.

"We've worked toward constantly asking questions of our staff and opening up doors and opening up conversations. Sometimes we here from employees, 'Oh, we're having another diversity training,' and that tells us we haven't had enough diversity trainings. It shouldn't be something that people roll their eyes at," said Wolowicz.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Wolowicz made it clear that times have been tough for residents of all genders, ethnicities and backgrounds.

Appio added that the pandemic has popularized a form of social distancing that is far from healthy.

"The type of social distancing that comes from bias is keeping somebody at arm's length because you don't want to do or say anything wrong, but then you never really get to have a real relationship with that person. We have to find ways to be brave and be willing to take feedback and learn from each other. It's a lifelong learning process," said Appio.

The full symposium can be viewed on South Hadley Community Television's Facebook and Vimeo pages.

Selectboard seeks volunteers for Town Administrator Screening Committee

Staff report

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Selectboard invites interested residents to apply to serve on the South Hadley Town Administrator Screening Committee.

"We look forward to having a resident participate in the process of selecting South Hadley's next town administrator," said Jeff Cyr, chair of the Selectboard. "It is important to us that residents are involved throughout the screening process."

The duties of the seven-member Town Administrator Screening Committee include reviewing résumés of applicants, selecting approximately six to nine semi-finalist candidates, interviewing those candidates, and selecting a total of three to five finalists to forward to the Selectboard for interviews.

The deadline for receipt of applications to serve on the Town Administrator Screening Committee is Dec. 31, at 12 p.m.

It is anticipated that the members of the Town Administrator Screening Committee will need to attend a maximum of four meetings to fulfill their committee obligations. Once finalists' names are presented to the Selectboard, the Town Administrator Screening Committee will have completed its mission.

"Town Administrator Screening Committee members will have a critical role in determining finalists for this important position," said Sarah Etelman, vice-chair of the Selectboard. "We are pleased to be able to call upon residents' experience, knowledge, and insight."

South Hadley has hired the consulting firm Community Paradigm Associates to assist in the town administrator search process. The consultant will guide and assist Town Administrator Screening Committee members in their efforts.

To submit an application to serve on the Town Administrator Screening Committee, please send your letter of interest and/or résumé via email to KMaher@ southhadleyma.gov

For more information, please contact Kristin Maher, executive assistant to administration, at KMaher@southhadleyma.gov or 413-538-5030, x6135.

St. Theresa's tradition continues

SOUTH HADLEY – St. Theresa of Lisieux parishioners gathered on Friday, Dec. 18 to continue their tradition. On that day they lovingly packaged and delivered holiday fruit and treat gift bags to the residences of Newton Manor, Lathrop Village and Hubert Place. This tradition has occurred for over 20 years and is a special event the parish looks forward to doing each year. Parishioners know these gift bags bring an extra special treat during the holiday season.



Thursday/Friday trash pick-up delayed one day, parking ban in effect until Saturday

SOUTH HADLEY – Starting Thursday, Dec. 17, South Hadley trash pick-up will operate on a delay for the remainder of the week due to the impending snowstorm. Thursday's pick-up will be made Friday, and Friday's on Saturday. A town-wide parking ban will be in effect for all streets today, Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. until Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7 a.m. All violators are subject to, and will be issued, a \$25 fine. They also risk being towed.

Park on the even numbered side of the street on even days; park on the odd numbered side of the street on odd days. The South Hadley Police Department will enforce this ban. No on-street parking is allowed on:

Bridge Street

Lamb Street Bardwell Street Main Street Lower North Main Street Route 116

You must move your vehicle between 8 and 9 a.m. to the opposite side of the street every day of the ban. Please park in your driveway if possible. Please also remember to clear sidewalks of snow within 48 hours after a parking ban has expired. For everyone's safety, we ask those with hydrants and storm drains on their properties to clear them of snow, ice and debris.

If you are able, we always encourage cooperation between neighbors. Thank you for assistance in this community effort to get through the winter together.

GUEST COLUMN

Will my U.K. pension affect my Social Security?

By Russell Gloor Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I lived and worked in the United Kingdom prior to coming to the U.S. at age 45, which qualified me for a U.K. State Pension worth the equivalent of about \$740 U.S. dollars per month. Since moving to the U.S. I have contributed to the U.S. Social Security system for 14 years and my estimated U.S. Social Security benefit is \$1,643 per month. I have heard about something called "WEP" and must be honest and say I don't fully understand. Can you provide some advice or references so I can understand what happens to these sums when I retire? I don't have any other pension income, so understanding these numbers is important. FYI, I hold both U.S. and U.K. passports and will retire in the U.S.A. Signed: Blessed from the UK

Dear Blessed: The "WEP" provision you refer to is known as the "Windfall Elimination Provision." It affects anyone who is eligible to collect Social Security benefits, but who also has a pension from another entity (corporation, public agency, or foreign country) which did not participate in the U.S. Social Security program (meaning that SS FICA payroll taxes weren't paid during that employment). WEP will reduce your U.S. Social Security benefit by using a special formula to compute your benefit amount. Generally, the WEP reduction is determined either by the number of years of substantial Social Security covered earnings that you have, or the WEP maximums (one of which is that your U.S. Social Security can't be reduced by more than half of your non-covered pension). With less than 20 years paying into the U.S. system, you will incur one of the maximum WEP reductions.

Something else important to understand is that the current estimate you have from Social Security doesn't include the WEP reduction. That estimate assumes that you will continue to earn at vour current level until vou reach your full retirement age. You haven't shared your birthdate, but from your email I assume you are now about 60-years-old. If you were born in 1959, your full retirement age (FRA) for U.S. Social Security purposes is 66 years and 10 months (if you were born after that your FRA is 67, and if you were born before that subtract 2 months for each year prior to 1959). Your FRA is when you will get your "full" Social Security benefit. If you claim before that (age 62 is the earliest you can claim) your benefit will be reduced (even before WEP), and if you wait beyond your FRA you'll earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) which will increase your benefit amount. DRCs stop at age 70.

Based upon what you've told me, I believe that your WEP reduction will probably be limited to one of the maximums, either half of your monthly U.K. pension, or the maximum for your "eligibility year" (2022?). We don't yet know what the standard maximum WEP reduction for 2022 will be, but for 2020 it is \$480. That is the most that your Social Security benefit could normally be reduced. But if your U.K. pension is about \$740 U.S. Dollars, then your maximum reduction should be about \$370, because the WEP reduction can't be more than half of your non-covered (U.K.) pension. So, your U.S. Social Security benefit of \$1,643 will most likely be reduced by about \$370 to about \$1,303. You will need to contact the U.K. pension system to see if any of your U.K. pension will be offset by your U.S. Social Security benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our (amacfoundation.org/ website programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@ amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Granby

Granby PD receives equipment grant

By Melina Bourdeau Staff writer

GRANBY - The Granby Police Department received a \$35,100 grant recently from the Executive Office of Public Safety and which will serve to update laptops and software.

The funding is from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant which "is intended for local police departments to address their law enforcement and criminal justice related needs." according to a Nov. 23 letter to the department from Gov. Charlie Baker.

Granby Police Chief Alan Wishart said members of the department work hard to apply for grants and when they get one, "it's exciting."

"We're going to use the funding to replace laptops in the cruisers and we're also getting cellebrite software...as well as two officers to get trained in it," he said. "We've had the current laptops for about eight to 10 years. It's a significant expense to replace them because they're



Archive photo

The Granby Police Department recently received a \$35,100 grant for new laptops in the cruisers, among other technology expenses.

not normal laptops. We're hoping to get another eight to 10 years out of them.'

The software will allow for officers to take evidence from smartphones.

"Now we have to take the item into evidence until we have the information from another department. With the new software,

7 p.m. - Granby UCC Christ-

7:30 p.m. - Letters to Santa:

9 p.m. - MA Military Gold

10 p.m. - Granby UCC Christ-

Night Before Christmas

Star Families Tribute

we'll be able to get people their equipment back faster," Wishart said. "In this day and age, the way many people communicate is through smartphones and when we investigate cases, a lot of them have some form of evidence related to that."

Wishart said he's excited about the grant.

"Applying to grants is a lot of time and effort, so we're excited when we get them," he said. "Particularly when it's equipment, the benefit is long-lasting, versus a one-time grant. It's a huge amount of money for a small or big town."

GCAM hosts holiday programming

mas Service

mas Pageant

mas Service

GRANBY - The following are the events and schedule for the holidays from Granby Community Access and Media.

On Channel 15, GCAM will be airing a Yule Log all day Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for residents to put in the background while preparing for their "stay-at-home Christmas" activities.

- 7 a.m. Seniors on the Move
- 8 a.m. Alivelihood
- 9 a.m. In the Garden with Liz
- 10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
- 11 a.m. Norfolk Knitting School
- 12 p.m. Songspeak
- 1 p.m. Letters to Santa Recap • 4 p.m. - Granby UCC Christ-
- Thursday, Dec. 24
- Friday, Dec. 25 • 12 a.m. - Granby UCC Christmas Service
- 6 a.m. MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
- 7 a.m. Granby UCC Christmas Service
- 9 a.m. Granby UCC Christmas Pageant
- 9:30 a.m. 2019 Granby Music All Grades Concert
- 11:30 a.m. Letters to Santa Recap

- 1:30 p.m. MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
- 2 p.m. Granby UCC Christmas Service • 3:30 p.m. - Granby UCC
- Christmas Pageant
- 4 p.m. MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
- 4:30 p.m. 2019 Granby Music All Grades Concert
- 6:30 p.m. Granby UCC Christmas Service
- 8:30 p.m. Granby UCC Christmas Pageant
- 9 p.m. MA Military Gold Star Families Tribute
- 9:30 p.m. Letters to Santa

On Dec. 26, there will be two marathons going on both Channels 12 and 15 reflecting the programming that GCAM aired over 2020. Channel 12 will includes things such as the Class of '70-'79 GJSHS Reunion, the East Meadow Teacher Parade, and the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Japan with Todd Carpen-

On Channel 15, GCAM will be including the various sports games that happened in 2020 along with various talks and events such as the GJSHS Health Fair that happened. GCAM will even feature some of the projects that came out of the GJSHS A/V Production class. GCAM will have times ready to go for Channel 15 on Facebook, Instagram, and its newsletter where residents can sign up on the website at www.granbymedia.com.

Free COVID-19 testing at HCC

Staff report

HOLYOKE - Free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue. turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

Please see **FREE TEST**, page 15

Springfield Garden Club hosts virtual tour of holiday decorations tonight

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Garden Club will host "Decked Out for the Holidays" presented by Jana Milbocker of Enchanted Gardens on Friday, Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. The event will be virtual and will be accessible via Zoom.

If you love holiday decorations but cannot see them in person this year, take a virtual tour! We will visit Blithewold, Newport Mansions, Winterthur and Longwood Gardens sumptuously decorated and lit for the holiday season.

Jana Milbocker is a garden designer, speaker, and author. She combines horticulture, design, and travel tips to educate, inspire and delight both new and seasoned gardeners. Jana loves to visit gardens and historic sites in the U.S. and abroad, and share her trips through her books, photos and blog. She published The Garden Tourist: 120 Destination Gardens and Nurseries in the Northeast in 2018, and The Garden Tourist's New England in 2020. She has lectured at flower shows in Mass., Conn., Maine, New York and New Jersey, as well as a multitude of horticultural societies, garden clubs, and libraries in the Northeast. She is owner of Enchanted Gardens, a landscape design firm in the Boston area. (EnchantedGardensDesign.com.) She is past president of the Holliston Garden Club, and active in the Garden Club Federation of Mass., Massachusetts Horticultural Society and GardenComm International.

The club is also offering an online holiday boutique and auction featuring quality gift items and holiday arrangements. Proceeds from the holiday boutique and auction allow the club to offer: Educational outreach to

- youth in our region.
- Fresh flower arrangements for patients in nursing homes,
- Creation and maintenance of public gardens around the

For a link to the auction site, please email your name and phone number to spfldgardenclub@gmail.com.

The presentation is open to the public as well as club members via Zoom.

Tickets for guests are \$5 and are available at EventBrite.com.

For more information on this and other Springfield Garden Club events go to www. gcfm.org/springfieldgardenclub or visit them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/ SpringfieldMAGardenClub/

Holiday offerings at the GPL

Staff report

GRANBY - The following are upcoming holiday events by Granby Public Library.

Kid's help make New Year's Eve sparkle at the **Granby Library**

Between Dec. 29 to 31 pick up a kit to make a firework wand and take home a noisemaker and glow stick necklace. The Granby library has multiple copies of "Happy New Year everywhere" and the night before New Year's Eve, as for a copy for curbside pick up. Need some movies to watch or other books to read? Ask for a curbside pick up by calling the library ahead during open hours at 467-3320.

Teens, stop by the Granby Library to get your glow on for New Years

Stop by the library lobby Dec. 29 to 31 during library hours Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to pick up a couple of glow stick necklaces. Limit two per teen. Need some movies to watch or books to read? Ask for a curbside pick up by calling the library ahead during open hours at 467-3320.

Family movie night holiday theme DVD binge boxes

A binge box is a box/bag with three DVD's hand-selected for you by the librarians, a bag of microwave popcorn, an activity and a small gift to brighten your day.

Library staff will ask your child(ren)'s age(s). You can request a personalized box, feel free to ask for books, music.

To request a holiday binge box call the library 467-3320 or email the library at granbypubliclibrary@gmail.com.

Library staff answer calls and emails on open library days Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Kid - made ornaments to "gift or keep" kits

Stop by for a take and make ornament kit, in the library lobby from Tuesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A little glue added to our kits and you'll have some homemade holiday ornaments to add a special touch to your tree or a great gift for someone special.

Bagged kits will be created for younger and older youth. It is first come first serve.

Holiday books for sale .50

A selection of "like new" holiday books are on the bottom shelf of our Ornament Kit cart. Each book is .50.

Envelopes are provided put the book payment in the envelope, then put the envelope in book drop.

Holiday craft bags for Jr/ Sr High schoolers

Get crafty! Choose an ornament kit and some winter magic coloring pages at the Granby Library.

While supplies last. Stop by the library lobby during library hours from Tuesday to Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

South Hadley

See Santa, virtually

Staff report

SOUTH HADLEY – While he's preparing for the upcoming holiday Santa will take time to do Zoom calls with local families.

The friends of Buttery Brook Park and the South Hadley Recreation Department announced that South Hadley is offering online visits with Santa Claus for two weeks using the Zoom platform.

Due to the COIVD-19 pandemic, the typical visits at the Buttery Brook Park Log Cabin with Santa have been cancelled.

The sessions will be held Dec. 17 to Dec. 20. There will be daily blocks between 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

Additional times may be added based on demand. Participants must pre-register at Southhadleyrecreation.org

There is no cost to visit with Santa.

Registrations will close 24 hours before the session, and it is first come/first serve for attendance. This is limited to South Hadley residents and/or students in the public schools.

When you sign in, one of Santa's helpers will make sure that everyone is up and running with the Zoom platform and other family and guests will be able to virtually attend as well. The session in total will last for about 10 minutes. Participants will have the ability to pick up some coloring books at the South Hadley Public Library at set times.

Each participant will receive a 'nice list' certificate after their meeting.

Here is the link online: https://leagues.bluesombre-ro.com/Default.aspx?tabid=1345157

Live nativity in South Hadley

Staff report

SOUTH HADLEY – Center Church, UCC will be hosting a live nativity on its steps Dec. 19 at 11 a.m., following its 39th consecutive vigil for racial justice. A few members of the church choir will sing some familiar carols, safely spaced apart wearing masks. The event is open to all and will last 15 to 20 minutes.

Neighbor News

Belchertown man among five arrested following narcotics investigation

Staff report

SPRINGFIELD – A long running investigation into a substantial drug trafficking organization culminated this week with the arrest of five suspects, and the seizure of over two kilograms of fentanyl, two kilograms of cocaine, 11 firearms and approximately \$12,000.

On Dec. 5, members of the District Attorney's Hampden County Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant on Julian Delgado's residence at 26 Columbia Terrace in Springfield for his alleged involvement in the distribution of cocaine. A preceding motor vehicle stop, which led to the arrest of Julian Delgado, 29, of Springfield, yielded one kilogram of cocaine. The subsequent search of his home yielded another kilogram of cocaine, found in a cardboard box under a Christmas tree.

Delgado has been charged with trafficking a class B drug "cocaine" over 200 grams, and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

On Dec. 7, investigators learned that Maralaisy Gil and Junior Degracia would be traveling to the Lawrence, area to procure a large quantity of heroin/Fentanyl. Later in the evening, a traffic stop was conducted in which six large bags containing approximately 2.87 kilograms of fentanyl was

found in the vehicle.

Both Junior Degracia, 41, and Maralaisy Gil, 39, both of



Courtesy photo

A long running investigation into a substantial drug trafficking organization culminated this week with the arrest of five suspects, and the seizure of over two kilograms of fentanyl, two kilograms of cocaine, 11 firearms and approximately \$12,000.

Springfield, have been arrested and charged with trafficking in heroin/fentanyl over 200 grams.

The following day, on Dec. 8, search warrants were executed in Springfield and Belchertown resulting in the arrests of the following two individuals for the following offenses:

John Feliciano, 45, of Spring-field, charged with: trafficking in heroin/fentanyl over 200 grams,

manufacturing in heroin/fentanyl, commission of a felony while armed, conspiracy to violate 94C narcotic laws, unlawful possession of a firearm (10 counts), possession of a sawed-off shotgun, possession of ammunition without FID card.

Jose Antonio Diaz, 46, of Belchertown, charged with: trafficking in heroin/fentanyl over 200

Please see **DRUG BUST**, page 12









Turley Publications staff photos by Dalton Zbierski

The South Hadley Public Schools Food Services Dept. serves approximately 525 students each school day during the COVID-19 pandemic. school cafeteria on Wednesday morning.



South Hadley Public Schools Food Services employee Kim Desrochers, left, and Newth Healy inside the high

MEALS from page 1

lunch for each day that school is in session.

"Parents sign up online, and every Wednesday, we do a distribution. We do it from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and then from 5 to 6:30 p.m.," said Food Service Director Matt Hoagland.

On Dec. 16, Food Services workers prepared and served more than 7.350 meals. Each student received 14 meals, a supply that will last through the winter break up until Jan. 5.

"It's awesome. I have a phenomenal staff here that wants to be here and wants to see the kids and give back. Right now, it's tough with COVID, but they all want to be here," said Hoagland.

South Hadley's student enrollment currently stands at 1,818, and all students are eligible for free meals in accordance to state guidelines. Meals include fresh fruit and milk and meet or exceed the dietary guidelines set by the state's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"Every day brings some challenges, but we just barrel through," said South Hadley High School Kitchen Manager Kathy Gauthier. "We try to have fun and want to make the best of it, especially with all the young kids coming in right now; they all need a little cheer."

Students are welcome to accompany their parents or guardians each Wednesday. On Dec. 16, John West arrived with

"It's absolutely wonderful and incredibly well-organized. The food is good, and we appreciate it. Things move along smoothly; I've never spent more than five minutes in line," said West.

On Dec. 16, all of the kitchen staff donned identical, holiday-themed shirts, as Christmas music played in the background. Lori Jagodowski, head cook at Michael E. Smith Middle School, explained the importance of having fun while working hard.

"We try to have that attitude," said Jagodowski. "If you come in and aren't having a good time and don't enjoy what you're doing, it shows, and the people see that. It's a tough time right now so when people come in and see people happy, it makes them smile. To be able to see people smiling and laughing when they walk out that door is so worth it, especially when they bring their kids in.'

On distribution day, parents and guardians are asked to bring a reusable grocery bag, sign in and enter the line. Staff members fill each bag with the appropriate amount of meals and add in a half gallon of milk.

Four months into the school year, the distribution process resembles a welloiled machine. For the kitchen staff, the experience can be extremely gratifying.

"People are so appreciative that it's be-



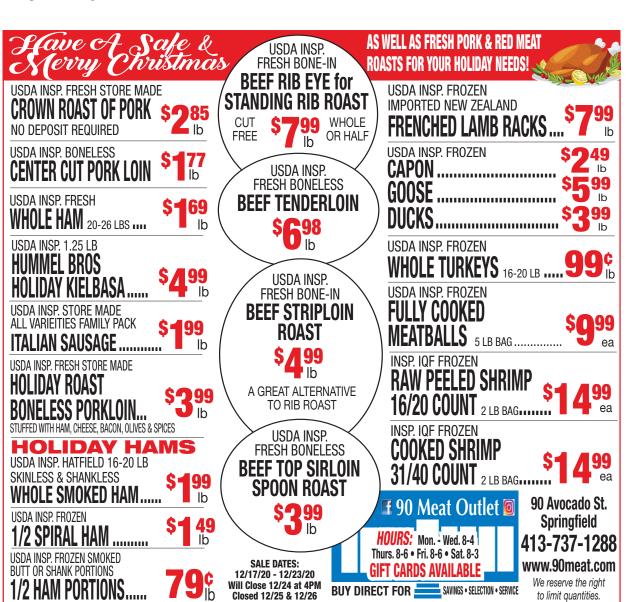
The Quatacker family arrived at South Hadley High School to receive two weeks' worth of meals on Dec. 16.

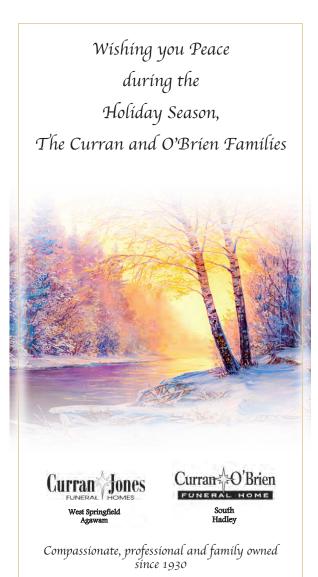
ing offered, and it makes us feel good that we're doing something to help out," said Gauthier. "We don't know the situations that everybody's in. Everybody is different, and if the food helps out and can take

to limit quantities.

a little bit of pressure off, it's helpful and worthwhile."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierskI@turley.com.





Seniors receive early Christmas present

By Dalton Zbierski Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY - Frigid temperatures could not deter a passionate group of volunteers, who distributed 410 meals to senior citizens on Dec. 16.

Coordinated by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors, Wednesday afternoon's engagement outside of St. Theresa's Parish on East Parkview Drive fostered an ample supply of Christmas spirit.

"I couldn't be prouder of everything that the Friends are doing. Seeing these people drive up and putting a bright spot in their day makes the season," said Friends' Vice President Janet Stawasz.

Friends President Kim Prough was instrumental in bringing the Dec. 16 initiative to fruition. She noted the Friends subsidize the meals in order to make them affordable for local seniors, who are asked to offer a small donation.

"It's nice to see people come by and get a chance to wave to folks that we don't get to see because the senior center is closed," said Prough. "Regardless of the weather, it's great to be out here and see everybody and connect with everybody."

Stawasz credited Prough with spearheading the effort. She offered up a high degree of praise for her colleague and friend.



Turley Publications staff photos by Dalton Zbierski

Members of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors pose for a photo outside of St. Theresa's Church on Dec. 16.

"I can't say enough about our President Kim. She really takes any project and takes it all through all stages. Her organizational skills are phenomenal," said Stawasz. "That's what makes these [initiatives] enjoyable, and they come together nicely. We

don't have people out on the streets or squabbling because they're waiting or any of that stuff because it's planned and executed with an efficiency."

Pauline Casey, a member of the Friends, could not find an adequate set of words to describe Prough's contributions. As she awaited her meal, Casey raved about the success of the Friends' meal distribution

"Their character is absolutely amazing." They have become even more encompassing over the past few years, especially with this. Also, the food is fantabulous," said

Next month, the Friends will distribute meals outside of Fire District #2 on Woodbridge St. The Jan. 14 event will be



Santa Claus greets a senior citizen picking up a meal at St. Theresa's Parish in South Hadley.

followed by a St. Patrick's Day lunch in March.

More information about initiatives that are led by the Friends can be found online at southhadleyseniors.org. Until next time, Stawasz will revel in the positivity that she experienced on Dec. 16.

"The needs of the senior community in our town are great. Right now, it seems like the food need is great so is the need for a degree of socialization. This event covers it all. [Seniors] come out and see people. Then, they go home and enjoy a very excellent meal at a very reasonable price," said Stawasz.

Members of the Friends of the South **Hadley** Seniors coordinated a distribution initiative, which provided 410 meals to local seniors.









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- Friday, Dec. 18 at Noon Barre Gazette, Country Journal, Ware River News The Journal Register
- Monday, Dec. 21 at noon Town Reminder, Chicopee Register and

The Holyoke Sun Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

to run the week of December 28 -January 1, 2021:

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No locker rooms, scrums in hockey modifications

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The parking lots at Olympia Ice Center and Fitzpatrick Rink could be very crowded this winter with students being forced to change outdoors as part of the modifications made to ice hockey for the 2020-2021 season.

High school guidelines from the office of Energy and Environmental Affairs required locker rooms to be closed at ice hockey arenas.

The only reason the locker rooms can be used is for players to use the bathroom and sinks. "Participants must wear-in/wearout clothes or dress in the parking lot or other designated area," multi-ply. the guidelines state.

The change is to limit close contact among teammates due to locker rooms being very congested spaces with a lot of pads and equipment taking up even more space.

One change for hockey versus other sports is the ability for players to wear gaiters on the ice. Typically, face coverings for players and fans alike in most sports requires a mask that has loops that go over the ear, securely covering the mouth and nose. Hockey players are allowed to wear gaiters, which were viewed as less secure by some. Gaiter will be allowed for hockey players provided they are

One of the tougher parts to comply with is the fact only 20 players will be allowed to dress for the game, and some extended bench areas will be needed for both teams in order to social distance enough. Typically, 22 players are allowed on the roster for varsity games. Only three coaches will be allowed on benches for games, though that is close to average for most hockey teams.

Having more than one player in the penalty box will also be a new challenge as only one player is allowed in the penalty box at a time. According to the guidelines, other spaces must be designated for players to serve

"One person in the penalty box at a time," the guidelines state. "If another player must be in a designated 'auxiliary box/location,' they must be social distanced either outside the penalty box or in the bench area as close to the penalty box as possible; when possible the second and or subsequent penalized players must move to the penalty box upon the exit of the previously penalized player."

There is in option for subsequent players to serve penalties on their bench if necessary.

The biggest change fans will notice with play on the ice is the elimination of "scrums." These are plays typically when multiple players go after a loose puck

in a corner of the ice. They usually take place on either side of the goal.

The guidelines only allow for one player from each team to be involved in a scrum. Once a third player joins, play must be stopped by the referee. Play also will be stopped if the scrum lasts more than five seconds.

High schools played fall sports in geographically-formed leagues in order to limit contact between too many schools. The plan will be similar for hockey, but leagues will look different because there are fewer teams. There were also no restrictions placed on co-op programs and they will be allowed to play.

Kolodziey steps down as Pioneers GM



Greg Kolodziey, longtime general manager of the Western Mass. Pioneers, has stepped down.

Mutiny GM Ferrara takes helm

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW - Along with being the longtime boys' varsity soccer coach at Ludlow High School, Greg Kolodziey has also been the General Manager of the Western Mass. Pioneers for more than ten years.

Kolodziey recently stepped down as the Pioneers G.M. due to personal reasons.

"I'm excited about some new challenges that lie ahead," Kolodziey said. "I hope to spend more time on the soccer field doing what I enjoy most, coaching kids, and assisting and encouraging them to be good students so once they get through the graduation line, they are ready to do good, positive things in life."

Kolodziey is still planning to continue coaching the boys varsity soccer team at his alma mater in the fall of 2021. He also coaches a Western United Pioneers squad.

Joe Ferrara, who like Kolodziey is a lifelong resident of Ludlow, has been named as



The New England Mutiny and Western Mass. Pioneers share a home stadium now. Mutiny owner Joe Ferrara was named the Pioneers GM.

the new General Manager of the son at all." Western Mass. Pioneers. He's also the owner of the New England Mutiny and is the Commissioner of the United Women's Soccer League.

"The Pioneers have a great support staff and the Mutiny also have a great support staff, so I think I'll be able to run both organizations without very much difficulty," Ferrara said. "The biggest challenge right now is that we still don't know what's going to be happening next spring."

The Pioneers and the Mutiny, who both play their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, didn't play any matches in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're hoping to have a season next year, but we're planning for several different scenarios,' Ferrara said. "A normal regular season, a shortened season, a season without fans, or no sea-

Before Kolodziey stepped down from his position, he and Ferrara shared the same office at Lusitano Stadium.

"I do have a lot of respect for Greg and his family," Ferrara said. "I would like to meet with him about the Pioneers."

The Pioneers, who had a very successful 2019 campaign, are coached by Federico Molinari.

"Federico is a very good soccer coach," Ferrara said. "I'm looking forward to working with him on a daily basis."

The Pioneers assistant coaches are Dennis Gomes, Jay Willis, and John Voight.

The Pioneers are members of the USL 2 League and compete in the Northeast Division of the Eastern Conference.

The USL 2 League G.M. meetings are normally held in

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 11



Woody Pitkat was a big winner at the Sunoco World Series event.

Seekonk Speedway announces events for next season

SEEKONK - Seekonk Speedway is looking ahead to a fresh, exciting 2021 season. On Dec. 3, the Massachusetts third-mile announced the full schedule of events for 2021 -- one that will mark the 75th anniversary of full-time racing. Seekonk Speedway looks forward to welcoming fans back to the grandstands safely, as the recent vaccine announcements for COVID-19 are welcomed news and talks continue with the state of Massachusetts.

Multiple major events headline the 2021 schedule -- including the ISMA Supermodified and Boston Louie NEMA Midget and NEMA Lite Races (June 9), the annual \$10,000 to win Open Wheel Wednesday headlined by the Tri Track Open Modified Series (June 30), the inaugural \$10,000 to win Bay State Summer Classic with the PASS Pro Stocks (July 28), the annual

Please see **RACE**, page 11



Christopher Buffone, of Belchertown, was also a champion last season.

PIONEERS from page 10

Florida in December, but they're going to be held virtual in January. The 2021 schedule will be released at that time.

The Pioneers qualified to play in the U.S. Open Cup last year, which was canceled. They're hoping to play in the 2021 Open Cup tournament.

"It'll be great if we do play in the Open Cup next year," Ferrara said. "It gives the smaller clubs the chance to play with the big boys."

The Mutiny had played games in several different communities before coming to Ludlow in 2019.

"Being able to have the Mutiny play home matches at Lusitano Stadium is very special to me," Ferrara said. "I played games there when I was in high school and the atmosphere is



Kolodziey will remain as coach of Ludlow High School.

great at the Stadium."

The Mutiny celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2019 and Ferrara has only missed one match since he formed the team in 1999.

After taking a year off from soccer for the first time in many years, Ferrara is ready to watch both of his soccer teams play next summer.

"Last summer was the first time in 20 years that I wasn't involved in soccer and it was refreshing. Soccer seasons can be a grind at times, especially when you're not succeeding on the field," Ferrara said. "I'm ready to go now and the players are also ready to get back on the field again."

While the 2020 United Women's Soccer League regular season was canceled, a couple of showcase tournaments were held in Michigan and Florida last summer.

The Mutiny, who are members UWS Eastern Conference, do have several players from Western Mass. listed on their roster.

"Having the local soccer players play for the Mutiny really means a lot to me," Ferrara said. "It's nice to have players from Granby, Monson, Agawam, and Ludlow on the team. We're represented by ten communities in Western Massachusetts. There are a lot of talented high school girls' soccer players from this area."

Several Mutiny players have been signed with N.W.S.L. and a few have played for professional teams in Europe.

Jill Serafino is the Mutiny General Manager and Jeb Booth is planning on returning as the Mutiny head coach in 2021.

Figure skating event cancelled

WILLIAMSTOWN – This decision was based on the Bay State Games overriding concern to protect the health and safety of all participants, coaches, judges, volunteers, and spectators. Other factors that lead to this decision include state guidelines limiting public events, the uncertainty of whether the Williams College Lansing Chapman Rink will open in 2021, current limitations on use of Williams College facilities by outside groups and protocol requirements from national figure skating governing bodies.

"It is with great disappointment that we announce we will be unable to host the Bay State

Games figure skating competition in Williamstown in 2021," said Bay State Games Executive Director Kevin Cummings. "For the last 35 years, it has been a privilege to bring skaters and their families to Berkshire County for this longtime winter tradition. While our participants have always enjoyed travelling to the region for the event which has had a positive economic impact for local hotels and restaurants, many factors related to the pandemic prevent us from returning in the Winter of 2021".

Bay State Games will continue to evaluate the possibility of hosting a live skating event in Massachusetts later in

2021 or as part of the Summer Games should the impact of the pandemic and restrictions improve. Potentially hosting virtual skating events later in the year is also under consideration. Future event options for 2021 are being investigated as federal, state, and local board of health protocols continue to be monitored. Bay State Games remains hopeful it can return to Berkshire County for 2022 events and beyond.

Updated information regarding the status of Bay State Games figure skating events will be posted on the Bay State Games website as soon as it is confirmed.

Hall of Fame concludes 'Bubbleville' Games

UNCASVILLE, Conn. – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Gazelle Group today concluded the season-opening event known as "Bubbleville." Games were played Nov. 25 – Dec. 4 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut with 25 teams taking the court.

Bubbleville housed several events relocated and reimagined due to COVID-19 and provided a controlled environment with teams and event staff adhering to tribal, government, and NCAA health and safety protocols and testing requirements. All games were played without fans in attendance.

Throughout the 10-day event, the game schedule continually evolved due to a number of COVID-related circumstances. In the end, 26 games were safely played in large part thanks to Mirimus and Hartford HealthCare. Both groups joined Bubbleville with live event COVID-19 protocol experience with the NBA and Viacom respectively. The Bubbleville Testing Team was led by Rachel Lattner, Chelsea Johnson and Jen Tempone.

Mohegan Sun and the Tribal Health Department also proved to be an invaluable partner for the event with the ability to provide a premier arena, beautiful accommodations and private catering, in addition to their extensive COVID protocols which have successfully been in place for several months.

With a combination of PCR and Saliva testing, 2,800 tests

were administered among 1,075 people including event staff, players, coaches, support staff and courtside media on-site. In the nearly two-week testing period, three positive tests were discovered, leading to two programs leaving the event before participating in game action and one matchup cancelled on what was scheduled to be the final day of the event.

With the support of the event's various health partners, Bubbleville was able to adhere to all safety protocols and enact tracing procedures as needed. To learn more about the event, visit https://www.hoophall.com/events/bubbleville or follow @hoophall #Bubbleville on Twitter and Instagram.

RACE from page 10

DAV Fall Classic (Sept. 24 to 25) and the Haunted Hundred, headlined by Tri Track (Oct. 23).

The slate includes 18 Saturday Night Showdowns -- showcasing Seekonk's premiere Pro Stocks, Everett's Auto Parts Late Models, Helger's South Coast Power Equipment Sportsman and Chaz Auto Body Sport Trucks. It will also see the return of the Fast Friday Series -- with 16 events for the Nick's Pit Stop Legends Cars, Helger's Pure Stocks, Sport 4's and Seekonk Grand Prix Bandoleros. Seekonk is pleased to welcome back all divisions and their sponsors, while adding Chaz Auto Body to the team of division sponsors.

With COVID-19 shutting down Saturday night competition and Thrill Shows in 2020, and only Fast Friday drivers hitting the track due to regulations from the state of Massachusetts to stop the spread of the virus, it's only fitting that the 75th anniversary be celebrated in 2021. Seekonk's Fast Friday classes ran a 10-race slate in front of no spectators in 2020, however, they continued to showcase youth talent and some of the best racing Seekonk offers through the track's YouTube channel.

"Our schedule includes a bit of something for everyone who is a race fan in the region." Ed St. Germain, Director of Business Development at Seekonk Speedway, said. "We're excited for all of our special events, but above all, we can't wait to welcome back our great fans and get our premiere Saturday night divisions back on the track in 2021."

The season opens with two Test and tune sessions on April

10 and 24, while opening weekend returns on Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2. Saturday will include the Classic Car Show and Swap Meet fans have come to love, with burn out drags and race practice. On Sunday, May 2, the engines fire in a race competition for the first time with the Pro Stocks, Late Models, Sportsman, Trucks and Spectator Drags. The season rolls from this starting point in May all the way through October, with more than 45 events planned.

Of the touring divisions included, two of them will visit Seekonk more than once -- with the prestigious Tri Track Open Modified Series bringing their top Modified talent for Open Wheel Wednesday (June 30) and the Haunted Hundred (October 23). Both races have a large purse and always attract the best Modified talent in the region. New for 2021, the American Canadian Tour (ACT) will also join the Haunted Hundred, along with the return of the Pro All Star Series (PASS) Super Late Models. All three races as part of the season-finale will be 100 laps, matching the Haunted

"Hundred" name.
PASS, New England's premier touring Super Late Model division, will return to Seekonk for three events overall in 2021 -- including the big \$10,000 to win race on Wednesday, July 28. PASS will also help headline the two races that will close the season -- the annual Fall Classic, with a 150-lapper on Sept. 25, and the Haunted Hundred.

The track welcomes back five Thrill Shows to the schedule -with a show for Memorial Day (May 29), Independence Day (July 3), Mid-Summer Spectacular (July 31), Labor Day (Sept. 4) and the Pumpkin Smash (Oct. 9). Note that all Thrill Shows are on Saturday night's -- giving weekly competitors the night off. There will also be a special event on Sunday, Aug. 8 -- headlined by the return of Monster Trucks and the first ever Spectator Drag race -- where drivers will double up and actually race for multiple laps together on the track, instead of just in a one-on-one format.

As part of the weekly slate, track champions will be crowned in all nine divisions. Championship battles for all divisions except the Pro Stocks will include as part of the DAV Fall Classic weekend on Sept. 24 and 25, as the Fall Classic returns to a two-day race format, with a practice session on Thursday night, Sept. 23. The Pro Stock title battle wraps on Saturday, Sept. 18, on Ocean State Oil Night, allowing drivers to compete with PASS at the Fall Classic.

The Phil's Propane Triple Crown Series returns after a year off due to COVID, with a three-race, extra distance, set of races for all of Seekonk's divisions. The Pro Stock Triple Crown Series races will be 60 laps, while the Late Models will shift to 45 laps. The Sportsman and Sport Trucks remain at 35, while the Pure Stocks, Sport 4's and Legends Cars are set for 30. As always, the Seekonk Grand Prix Bandolero division runs 15 laps for all of their events, but will also crown a Triple Crown champion.

Phil's Propane Triple Crown Series Dates:

Pro Stocks: June 5, July 16, Aug. 21

Late Models: May 22, June

26, Aug. 21

Sportsman: May 15, June 19, Aug. 21

Sport Trucks: May 8, June 12, Aug. 21

Legends Cars: June 25, July 30, Aug. 20

Pure Stocks: June 18, July 16, Aug. 20

Sport 4: June 11, July 23, Aug. 20 Bandolero: June 4, July 9,

Bandolero: June 4, July 9 Aug. 20

The Everett's Auto Parts Diamond Races are on the schedule, with three special events for the Pro Stocks and the Late Models. All of these races will be 50 laps for both divisions, including a night where both classes run the

50's on Saturday, Aug. 14. Everett's Auto Parts Diamond Race Dates:

Pro Stocks: June 26, July 24, Aug. 14

Late Models: June 19, July 17, Aug. 14

The Troy City Tactical Spectator Drag Series is back, with drivers set to compete in a 10-race series starting on May 2 and ending on Oct. 9. In the middle, drivers will thrill fans in front of both Saturday night crowds and Thrill Show fans.

The Power 5 Series will return for Helger's Southcoast Power Equipment Sportsman, with five races set for 30 laps instead of 25, with a bit of extra purse money on the line courtesy of Helger's. Sponsorship is available for Power 5 races for the remainder of Seekonk's Saturday night divisions.

The schedule also includes the special returns of Military Night, Youth Sports Night, the STAR and NEAR Antique Racer divisions, R.I. Shriners Night (with Trike Races), Fans on Parade, Scout Night, the Pit Party, Phil's Propane night, Helger's Southcoast Power Equipment night and the annual Fan Appreciation night sponsored by Everett's Auto Parts.

Seekonk looks forward to welcoming back a long list of supporters for the 2021 season, and can't thank those who stepped up in 2020 enough. See below for a full list of 2021 sponsors to this point:

Everetts Auto Parts, Helger's Southcoast Power Equipment, Phil's Propane, Ocean State Oil, Solar Theraputics, PEPSI, T. Moreshead Landscaping, Sunoco Race Fuels, American Racer, Elmwood Dodge, Bristol Tovota, First Ford, Troy City Tactical, Shriners Childrens Hospital, Roger Williams Zoo, Precision Harley Davidison, Columbus Energies Chick Fil A Seekonk Grand Prix, Chaz Auto Body, Nick Lascuola Racing, Lambert Brothers Racing, Spring Villa Memory Care, Viper Graphics, Nick's Pit Stop, Nat's Racing Engines, KC's Burger Bar, Miller Brewing, Coors Light, WCTK Cat Country, Four Town Farms

The full schedule is subject to change.

Seekonk Speedway will release additional updates about the 2021 season when available. For more information, follow the track on all social media channels and visit seekonkspeedway. com. Please stay tuned for ticket release dates for advanced purchase

Fans should keep a lookout for new episodes of the Seekonk Speedway podcast series over the winter months, giving you a step back in time, a view of the present and a look into the fu-

Public Safety

South Hadley Police Log

Compiled by Melina Bourdeau

Townreminder@turley.com

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the South Hadley Police log and arrests for the weeks of Nov. 25 to Dec.13. The information was provided by Chief Jennifer Gundersen based on review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Mass General Law prohibits the release of names of those arrested for domestic incidents.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

12:46 a.m. - Officers took a report from a Hillside Ave. resident that their vehicle was struck in a hit and run incident. There was substantial damage to the vehicle. There are no suspects at this time.

2:04 p.m. – A Newton St. business reported its sign was vandalized. Upon investigation, an officer found there were other signs in the area were vandalized with graffiti as well. There are no suspects at this time.

Thursday, Nov. 26

9:47 p.m. – Officers dispatched to the area of Canal and West Summit St. for a report of a one vehicle accident. On arrival, an officer saw a vehicle in the woods at the end of West Summit St. with substantial damage to the vehicle. There was no operator to be found and officers couldn't find the operator. The officers contacted the owner of the vehicle who reported they lent the car to another person. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Friday, Nov. 27

9:57 a.m. - A 64-year-old Ferry St. resident reported while they were mowing their lawn, their neighbor came from behind them and kept hitting them in the back. The person reported it was part of an ongoing neighbor dispute. The individual involved will be summoned to court on charges of assault and battery on person over 60.

5:55 p.m. -David Glenn Ellis, 44, of 68 Bridge St. South Hadley was arrested on a warrant and a charge of possession of class A drugs. While an officer was on patrol on Bridge St. when they saw someone known to have an outstanding warrant out of Holyoke. The suspect stopped and was placed under arrest and during booking it was found that the suspect possessed packets of what was believed to be heroin and affiliated paraphernalia.

Saturday, Nov. 28

10:39 p.m. -A Bridge St. resident reported an attempted breaking and entering incident into their apartment. The caller noticed damage to the kitchen door. It was unknown if entry was gained and unknown what, if anything, was stolen at time of the report. There is no further information at this time.

Monday, Nov. 30

12:41 p.m. – 1171oF – Officers took a report of breaking and entering into a vehicle on Richview Ave. The caller reported a small amount of money taken from the unlocked vehicle. The vehicle was parked overnight on the street. There are no suspects at this time.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

1:57 p.m. - Officers took a report of someone leaving the scene of property damage on Riverboat Village Rd. at the apartment complex. The incident involved a hit and run to a vehicle that was parked overnight. There are no suspects at

Wednesday, Dec. 2

10:34 a.m. - An officer took a report of damage to a garage which was being rented out. There were holes and general damage to the garage, but the involved parties came to an agreement regarding payment for the damage.

2:33 p.m. - Officers took a report of an employee of a rental unit on Industrial Dr. who reported suspicious barrels in an abandoned unit. The South Hadley Fire Dept. was called and it was determined the contents did not pose an immediate hazard. The scene was rendered safe.

Thursday, Dec. 3

7:48 a.m. - Officers took a report of illegal dumping on Baker St. There were large household items that were discarded. There are no suspects at this time.

Saturday, Dec. 5

8:40 a.m. – 10fficers took a report of a hit and run on Bridge St. The victim reported they were parking on Bridge St. when they were struck from behind by another vehicle. The operator of the second vehicle spoke with the first operator and asked if they wanted to exchange information. The first operator agreed and when they went to move to a better location to exchange information, the second operator left the scene. The suspect was a male party with a mustache driving a black Cadillac Escalade. No further information is available at this time

Sunday, Dec. 6

6:27 p.m. – Officers responded to a single vehicle accident on Alvord Pl. It was reported the operator had minor injuries. The operator pulled into their driveway, accidently accelerated instead of breaking and struck the front of their home. The accident caused serious structural damage to the home. The operator was transported with suspected minor injuries.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

4:18 p.m. - Jose Alfaro, 35, of 15 South Point Dr., Amherst was arrested on charges of a marked lanes violation and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. An officer was on patrol on Newton St. when they observed a vehicle in middle of road trying to make left turn. In location the operator was attempting to turn, there was no street to turn onto. The officer was able to control traffic to get the vehicle to parking lot and when speaking with the operator, it was found that the driver's license was under suspension. They were charged accordingly.

Wednesday, Dec. 9

3:18 p.m. – Officers took a report of vandalism to a Canal St. residence. A Canal St. resident reported their house was egged the previous night. The officer reported the eggs may have been thrown from a vehicle. There didn't appear to be permanent damage to the residence. There are no suspects at this time.

44:18 p.m. -Officers took a report of stolen property from a Mosier St. residence. The resident reported their political signs were stolen from their front yard. There was video of female party wearing a mask who stole the sign. There is no further information.

7:52 p.m. - An officer dispatched to area of Lathrop St. for a report of illegal dumping. An officer found three empty cardboard boxes near row of bushes. The shipping labels on the boxes indicated they should have been shipped to a Chestnut Hill Rd. address. It was later determined the packages were removed from the address and the contents were taken from them. There are no suspects at this

Friday, Dec. 11

6:26 p.m. -Officers took a report of malicious damage from a Riverboat Village resident. The resident reported damage to the interior of the apartment from a roommate who was moving out of the apartment. The matter is part of an ongoing roommate dispute.

Sunday, Dec. 13

3:09 a.m. - Officers dispatched to the Seven-11 convenience store for a report of armed robbery. The suspect left the scene upon the officers' arrival. The officers spoke with the clerk who indicated an individual entered the store, walked behind the register and displayed a small knife or scissors and began demanding money. Upon receiving the money, they left the store. The clerk described the suspect as a skinny, 5'7 man who was wearing black clothes and sunglasses with white frames. Officers did an area search including with a K-9 from the Mass. State Police which turned up negative. Officers reviewed surveillance footage and there is no further information at this time.

8:30 p.m. - Officers took a report of damage to a vehicle parked on Ludlow Rd. A resident reported sometime between 11a.m. and 8:30 p.m. an unknown party threw a bottle through a parked vehicle. There were parts of the bottle recovered and will be examined by the detective bureau. There are no suspects at this time.

DRUG BUST from page 7

grams, manufacturing in heroin/fentanyl, conspiracy to violate 94C narcotic laws, unlawful possession of a firearm (10 counts), possession of a sawed-off shotgun, possession of ammunition without FID card.

Hampden District Attorney Anthonv D. Gulluni said, "This long running, multi-agency investigation has dismantled a prominent drug trafficking organization here in the western Massachusetts region. The large amount of narcotics seized, specifically the fentanyl, and the dismantling of this organization, unquestionably has saved many lives. The agencies and officers involved should be commended for operating a very successful and intricate investigation that targeted the trafficking of Fentanyl, an extraordinarily potent drug that has killed thousands across Massachusetts just over the past few years."

Recovered during these searches were the following: approximately 400 grams of heroin/fentanyl, 11 firearms (seven pistols, two rifles, 1 AR15 rifle and a sawedoff shotgun), two ballistic vests, \$11,200 US currency and numerous rounds of various ammunition.

The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office provided funding for this investi-

gation. AG Healey's office has prioritized combatting the opioid crisis and has been working closely with federal, state and local partners to fight illegal drug trafficking throughout New England. The AG's Fentanyl Strike Force was created in 2016 using a \$1 million federal grant that has since been strengthened with an additional \$5.6 million in funding to expand ongoing multistate and cross-jurisdictional investigations.

Participating in the investigation were: the Hampden District Attorney's Office, the Hampden District Attorney's Hampden County Narcotics Task Force and the Massachusetts State Police Detective

Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Springfield Police Department Narcotics Unit, United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Homeland Security Investigations. the West Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee Police Departments, Hampden County Sheriff's Department, Massachusetts State Police's Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction Enforcement Team and the Massachusetts State Police Gang

Arraignment information was not immediately available.

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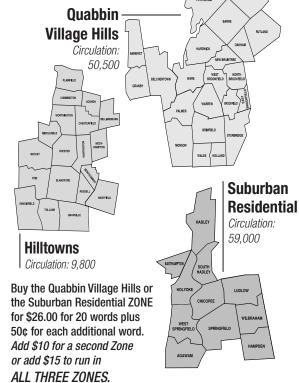
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Classified Advertising **DEADLINES**

QUABBIN & **SUBURBAN FRIDAY** AT NOON

HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

Public Notices

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.I. C.255 Sec. 39A

Notice Is Hereby Given By Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, Ma 01075, Pursuant To The Provisions Of G.1. C. 255, Section 39A, That **A SEALED BID** Auction With Bids Due Monday, January 4, 2021 At 9 A.m. Vehicles Can Be Viewed By Appointment Only December 29 And December 30, 2020 Between 9 A.m. And 4 P.m. Monday Through Friday. Please Call 413-534-5373 For Appoinments.

The Following Motor Vehicles Will Be Sold To Satisfy Our Garage Keeper's Lien Thereon For Storage, Towing Charges, Care And Expenses Of Notices And Sale Of Said Vehicles:

2005 Chevrolet Corvette 1G1YY24U255103525 No Record Found

2001 Honda Shadow Spirt

1HFSC180X1A501974 John M. Stearns 10 Oakdale St Westfield, Ma 01085

2013 Mitsubishi Outlander Sport

4A4AR3AU9DE017846 Mary Hachey 31 Dexter St #1 Orange, Ma 01364

1999 Subaru Legacy 4S3BG6850X7626866 Donna L. Murry P.o. Bx 154 Monson, Ma 01057

2004 Nissan Maxima 1N4BA41E44C861179 Luis E. Rosa 623 Hampden St. Holyoke, Ma 01040

2005 Ford Explorer Sport

1FMZU77KX5UB14319 Jonathan Rodriguez 28 Valley Hts. Holyoke, Ma 01040

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2005 Ford Five Hundred 1FAFP251X5G188064 No Records Found

2001 Toyota Camry 4T1BG22K71U086234 Carl R. Vettori 143 School St Apt C4 Taunton, Ma 02780

2001 Honda Cr-V JHLRD18681C042204 Misheily Morales-Rivera 84 Front St #12 Chicopee, Ma 01013

2004 Volvo S80 YV1TH59H641366244 Tvrisha T Greene 48 Rifle St. Springfield, Ma 01105

1997 Lincoln Town Car 1LNLM82W1VY639042 Leroy C Mcdaniel 78 Sanderson St. Springfield, Ma 01107

Moped Kymco Red RF55CAA582B102137 No Records Found P/U Lyman St & Beech St Holyoke, Ma 01040

1998 Nissan Maxima JN1CA21D3WM904906 Todd M Beddow 344 Suffield St Agawam, Ma 01001

2007 Kia Optima KNAGE124475157854 Brianna N. Zucco 77 Wilmont St #2L Springfield, Ma 01108

2002 Saturn S-Series 1G8ZR12712Z196620 Juan M. Colon 649 South Summer St Apt 2R Holyoke, Ma 01040

1998 Honda Civic 1HGEJ7124WL129329 Xavier T Dejesus 9 Ladd St. Springfield, Ma 01109

2008 Hyundai Tiburon KMHHM66D38U263779 Juan A. Reyes 10 Marengo Park #2R Springfield, Ma 01108

2003 Infiniti Q45 JNKBF01A83M101829

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D Α Thomas K. Fleming 76 Nonotuck St. Holyoke, Ma 01040 12/18, 12/25, 1/01/2021

> SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that a SEALED BID auction with bids due Monday, December 21, 2020 at 9 a.m. Vehicles can be viewed by appointment only December 16 and December 17, 2020 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call 413-534-5373 for appoinments.

The following motor vehicles will be sold to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

2005 Toyota Corolla 1NXBR32E45Z481407 Arianna Gregoire 29 Quincy Ave, Chicopee, MA 01020

2008 Toyota Corolla 2T1BR32E08C858286 Geraldine R. Gross 5 Colonial Vlg Dr. Apt 6 Arlington, Ma 02474

1988 Suzuki Samurai JS4JC51CXJ4246921 Angel Rivera 584 Chicopee St. Apt2R Chicopee, MA 01013

2004 Jeep Liberty 1J4GL48K84W240848 Lydia Rivera 56 Maple St Apt 218 Florence, MA 01062

2005 Ford Escape 1FMYU03Z45KB35569 Donald R. Dunckley 43 Michael Ave Bellport, NY 11713

2005 Mazda Mazda6

1YVFP80C255M75426 Sherry D. Salazar 132 Beauchamp Ter Chicopee, MA 01020

2003 Subaru Forester JF1SG65613H756811 Anthony Filion 904B West Street Ludlow, MA 01056

2006 Honda Civic 2HGFA16856H520601 Tania Feliciano 456 Maple Street #2RF Holyoke, MA 01040

Ouad

JSAAJ43A612110796 No Record Found No Record Found No Record Found

18' Camper 4YDT3072344215431

Todd Fondakowski 29 Loudville Road West Hampton, MA 01027

1998 Honda Civic 2HGEJ6670WH509859 Bryan Velez- Morales 117 Bloomfield Street Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Suzuki DR-Z 400sm JS1SK44A462102003 Angel Rivera 584 Chicopee St Chicopee, MA 01013

2007 Ford Edge 2FMDK46C57BB49772 Adam McNair 237 Stapleton Road Springfield, MA 01109

Quad Ku1500 LAGAKUFR741000979 No Records Found No Records Found No Records Found

2007 Nissan Sentra 3N1AB61EX7L676774 Johnathan Cartagena 24 Ringgold Street Springfield, MA 01107

2001 Subaru Outback 4S3BH675517630255 Lydia Lozada 416 Canon Circle Springfield, Ma 01118 12/04, 12/11, 12/18/2020

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FREE TEST from page 6

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: https:// www.mass.gov/info-details/stopthe-spread

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: https:// www.holyoke.org/departments/ board-of-health

New Spectrum store now open in Chicopee

Staff report

CHICOPEE - Charter Communications, Inc. announced the opening of a new Spectrum Store in Chicopee in earlier in Oct. The Spectrum store gives consumers in the Chicopee area a convenient option for adding or managing their Spectrum Internet, TV, Mobile or Voice services.

"Our Spectrum stores team is here to help our local customers who need support in getting and staying connected during these uncertain times," said Pattie Eliason, Senior Vice President, Spectrum Stores & Retail. "They are working to make our new store in Chicopee a safe,

convenient environment to add or manage services, shop for devices and accessories or make payments, while ensuring we adhere to current local and state health and safety guidelines."

The new Chicopee store at 591 Memorial Drive is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. To help protect the safety of customers and employees, and in accordance with CDC guidelines and state and local orders, social distancing is required in the store, with occupancy of the store managed by store employees. Spectrum stores are cleaned and disinfected regularly, with frequent cleaning of high-touch areas

and hand sanitizer available throughout the store.

The new Spectrum store offers the latest devices and accessories compatible with Spectrum Mobile, which is designed to provide customers the highest quality experience at great value, including access to next-generation 5G service where available. Customers can save up to 40% on a single line with unlimited data compared to other national carriers.* They also can bring their own phone or choose from among the latest mobile devices and accessories.

Store visitors also have the opportunity to experience the power of Spectrum Internet, featuring starting speeds of 100 Mbps and plans with connections up to 1 gigabit per second, as well as the interactive Spectrum TV App, which gives customers access to the Spectrum TV content across a wide variety of platforms and devices.

Along with sampling and ordering Spectrum services, customers also can complete a variety of transactions at the store, including account payments and upgrading or exchanging equipment.

Information on Spectrum store locations can be found online along with more information about Spectrum products and services. 24-hour customer assistance is always available at 1-855-707-7328.



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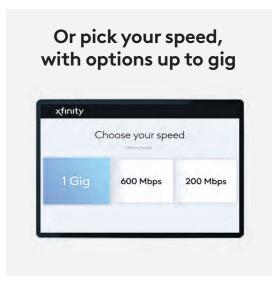
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